

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing content to a client system, the system comprising:

5 an assessment system that obtains content presentation environment information associated with the client system, wherein the content presentation environment information is based on an operating environment evaluation of the client system performed by an evaluation system; and
a content processing system that selects one of a plurality of
10 versions of the content to send the client system using the obtained content presentation environment information.

2. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the obtained content presentation environment information comprises a first identifier for a content
15 presentation application associated with the client system and a second identifier for a content transfer rate associated with the client system.

3. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the evaluation system performs the operating environment evaluation of the client system by determining
20 at least one of a current content transfer rate for the client system, one or more types or versions of one or more Web browsers associated with the client system, one or more types or versions of one or more content presentation applications associated with the client system, and one or more types or versions of one or more operating systems associated with the client system.

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4. The system as set forth in claim 3 wherein the evaluation system determines the current content transfer rate for the client system by sending an operation execution request to the client system and calculating an amount of time taken by the client system to perform an operation associated with the operation
30 execution request, wherein the amount of time is measured from when the operation execution request is sent until the evaluation system is notified that the client system completed performing the operation.

5. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the operation comprises rendering an image transmitted from the evaluation system to the client system.

5 6. The system as set forth in claim 3 wherein the one or more types of content presentation applications comprise at least one of a video presentation application, an audio presentation application, a hypertext document presentation application, and a document processing application.

10 7. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the content presentation environment information is stored at a location accessible to the client system.

15 8. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the assessment system determines whether stored content presentation environment information is available for retrieval from the client system, wherein the evaluation system evaluates the operating environment of the client system to obtain the content presentation environment information if the stored content presentation environment information is determined to be unavailable.

20 9. The system as set forth in claim 8 wherein the assessment system stores the obtained content presentation environment information at a location accessible to the client system.

25 10. The system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a content delivery system that sends the selected content to the client system in response to a request from the client system, wherein neither the assessment system, the evaluation system, the content processing system, nor the content delivery system request any additional information from the client system.

30 11. The system as set forth in claim 10 wherein the content delivery system sends the selected content at a content transfer rate that the selected content is formatted to be sent at.

12. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the content comprises at least one of video content, audio content, hypertext content and document content.

13. A method for providing content to a client system, the method
5 comprising:
obtaining content presentation environment information associated with the client system, wherein the content presentation environment information is based on an operating environment evaluation of the client system; and
selecting one of a plurality of versions of the content to send the
10 client system using the obtained content presentation environment information.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the obtained content presentation environment information comprises a first identifier for a content presentation application associated with the client system and a second identifier
15 for a content transfer rate associated with the client system.

15. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the obtaining content presentation environment information associated with the client system comprises performing the operating environment evaluation of the client system by
20 determining at least one of a current content transfer rate for the client system, one or more types or versions of one or more Web browsers associated with the client system, one or more types or versions of one or more content presentation applications associated with the client system, and one or more types or versions of one or more operating systems associated with the client system.

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16. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the determining a current content transfer rate for the client system comprises sending an operation execution request to the client system and calculating an amount of time taken by the client system to perform an operation associated with the operation execution request, wherein the amount of time is measured from when the operation
30 execution request is sent until a notification that the client system completed performing the operation is received.

17. The method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the operation associated with the operation execution request that is performed by the client system comprises rendering an image transmitted to the client system.

5 18. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the one or more types of content presentation applications comprise at least one of a video presentation application, an audio presentation application, a hypertext document presentation application, and a document processing application.

10 19. The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the content presentation environment information is stored at a location accessible to the client system.

15 20. The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the obtaining content presentation environment information associated with the client system comprises determining whether stored content presentation environment information is available for retrieval from the client system, and evaluating the operating environment of the client system to obtain the content presentation environment information if the stored content presentation environment information is
20 determined to be unavailable.

21. The method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising storing the obtained content presentation environment information at a location accessible to the client system.

25 22. The method as set forth in claim 13 further comprising sending the selected content to the client system in response to a request from the client system without requesting any additional information from the client system.

30 23. The method as set forth in claim 22 wherein the selected content is sent at a content transfer rate that the selected content is formatted to be sent at.

24. The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the content comprises at least one of video content, audio content, hypertext content and document content.

5 25. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for providing content to a client system, which when executed by at least one processor, causes the processor to perform:

obtaining content presentation environment information associated with the client system, wherein the content presentation environment information is based on an operating environment evaluation of the client system; and

10 selecting one of a plurality of versions of the content to send the client system using the obtained content presentation environment information.

26. The medium as set forth in claim 25 wherein the obtained content presentation environment information comprises a first identifier for a content presentation application associated with the client system and a second identifier for a content transfer rate associated with the client system.

27. The medium as set forth in claim 25 wherein the obtaining content presentation environment information associated with the client system comprises performing the operating environment evaluation of the client system by determining at least one of a current content transfer rate for the client system, one or more types or versions of one or more Web browsers associated with the client system, one or more types or versions of one or more content presentation applications associated with the client system, and one or more types or versions of one or more operating systems associated with the client system.

28. The medium as set forth in claim 27 wherein the determining a current content transfer rate for the client system comprises sending an operation execution request to the client system and calculating an amount of time taken by the client system to perform an operation associated with the operation execution request, wherein the amount of time is measured from when the operation

execution request is sent until a notification that the client system completed performing the operation is received.

5 29. The medium as set forth in claim 28 wherein the operation associated with the operation execution request that is performed by the client system comprises rendering an image transmitted to the client system.

10 30. The medium as set forth in claim 27 wherein the one or more types of content presentation applications comprise at least one of a video presentation application, an audio presentation application, a hypertext document presentation application, and a document processing application.

15 31. The medium as set forth in claim 25 wherein the content presentation environment information is stored at a location accessible to the client system.

20 32. The medium as set forth in claim 25 wherein the obtaining content presentation environment information associated with the client system comprises determining whether stored content presentation environment information is available for retrieval from the client system, and evaluating the operating environment of the client system to obtain the content presentation environment information if the stored content presentation environment information is determined to be unavailable.

25 33. The medium as set forth in claim 32 further comprising storing the obtained content presentation environment information at a location accessible to the client system.

30 34. The medium as set forth in claim 25 further comprising sending the selected content to the client system in response to a request from the client system without requesting any additional information from the client system.

35. The medium as set forth in claim 34 wherein the selected content is sent at a content transfer rate that the selected content is formatted to be sent at.

5 36. The medium as set forth in claim 25 wherein the content comprises at least one of video content, audio content, hypertext content and document content.

37. A system for determining a current data transfer rate of a client system over a network, the system comprising:
10 an operation initiation system that requests the client system to perform one or more operations;
a data transmission system that sends data over the network to the client system, wherein the client system needs the data to perform the one or more requested operations; and
15 a current transfer speed detection system that calculates an amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations, wherein the current data transfer rate of the client system is based on the calculated amount of time.

20 38. The system as set forth in claim 37 wherein the current transfer speed detection system measures the amount of time from when the one or more operations are requested until the client system completes performing the one or more operations.

25 39. The system as set forth in claim 37 wherein the operation initiation system instructs the client system to render one or more images.

30 40. The system as set forth in claim 37 wherein the data sent over the network to the client system by the data transmission system comprises one or more image files.

41. The system as set forth in claim 40 wherein a size of one or more of the image files is in a range between about forty and about seventy kilobytes.

42. The system as set forth in claim 40 wherein a size of one or more of the image files is about forty-six kilobytes.

43. The system as set forth in claim 37 wherein the current transfer speed detection system waits for the client system to complete performing the one or more operations before calculating the amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations until a maximum time limit has elapsed.

44. The system as set forth in claim 37 wherein the current transfer speed detection system adjusts the calculated amount of time to account for one or more factors, wherein the current data transfer rate of the client system comprises the adjusted calculated amount of time.

45. The system as set forth in claim 44 wherein the one or more factors comprise at least one of an amount of the data transmitted to the client system over the network, a first estimated amount of time taken to request the client system to perform the one or more operations, and a second estimated amount of time taken by the client system to process instructions for performing the one or more requested operations.

46. A method for determining a current data transfer rate of a client system over a network, the method comprising:
requesting the client system to perform one or more operations;
sending data over the network to the client system, wherein the client system needs the data to perform the one or more requested operations; and
calculating an amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations, wherein the current data transfer rate of the client system is based on the calculated amount of time.

47. The method as set forth in claim 46 wherein the calculating an amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations further comprises measuring the amount of time from when the one or more operations are requested until the client system completes performing the one or more operations.

48. The method as set forth in claim 46 wherein the requesting the client system to perform one or more operations further comprises instructing the client system to render one or more images.

49. The method as set forth in claim 46 wherein the data sent over the network to the client system comprises one or more image files.

50. The method as set forth in claim 49 wherein a size of one or more of the image files is in a range between about forty and about seventy kilobytes.

51. The method as set forth in claim 49 wherein a size of one or more of the image files is about forty-six kilobytes.

52. The method as set forth in claim 46 further comprising waiting for the client system to complete performing the one or more operations before calculating the amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations until a maximum time limit has elapsed.

53. The method as set forth in claim 46 further comprising adjusting the calculated amount of time to account for one or more factors, wherein the current data transfer rate of the client system comprises the adjusted calculated amount of time.

54. The method as set forth in claim 53 wherein the one or more factors comprise at least one of an amount of the data transmitted to the client system over the network, a first estimated amount of time taken to request the client system to perform the one or more operations, and a second estimated amount of time taken by the client system to process instructions for performing the one or more requested operations.

55. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for determining a current data transfer rate of a client system over a network, which when executed by at least one processor, causes the processor to perform:

requesting the client system to perform one or more operations;
sending data over the network to the client system, wherein the client system needs the data to perform the one or more requested operations; and
calculating an amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations, wherein the current data transfer rate of the client system is based on the calculated amount of time.

56. The medium as set forth in claim 55 wherein the calculating an amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations further comprises measuring the amount of time from when the one or more operations are requested until the client system completes performing the one or more operations.

57. The medium as set forth in claim 55 wherein the requesting the client system to perform one or more operations further comprises instructing the client system to render one or more images.

58. The medium as set forth in claim 55 wherein the data sent over the network to the client system comprises one or more image files.

59. The medium as set forth in claim 58 wherein a size of one or more of the image files is in a range between about forty and about seventy kilobytes.

60. The medium as set forth in claim 58 wherein a size of one or more of the image files is about forty-six kilobytes.

5 61. The medium as set forth in claim 55 further comprising waiting for the client system to complete performing the one or more operations before calculating the amount of time taken by the client system to perform the one or more requested operations until a maximum time limit has elapsed.

10 62. The medium as set forth in claim 55 further comprising adjusting the calculated amount of time to account for one or more factors, wherein the current data transfer rate of the client system comprises the adjusted calculated amount of time.

15 63. The medium as set forth in claim 62 wherein the one or more factors comprise at least one of an amount of the data transmitted to the client system over the network, a first estimated amount of time taken to request the client system to perform the one or more operations, and a second estimated amount of time taken by the client system to process instructions for performing the one or more requested operations.